



# Trailin' Tails

JANUARY — MARCH, 2014



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## Resolve to Help Pets in 2014!

There are many ways you can help animals right here in Maricopa County!

The most obvious? Adopt a dog or cat from MCACC or one of our New Hope rescue partners.

If you have a house full of animals and cannot take in another homeless pet, there are other ways you can help dogs and cats in the community.

Start by spaying or neutering your companion animal. MCACC's Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) is

free to residents of Maricopa County and provides no-cost spay or neuter surgeries to companion animals.



**Big Poppa — Adopted in 2013!**

Last fiscal year, through SNAP, more than 12,000 owned dogs and cats received spay or neuter surgery at no

cost to their owners!

The program is funded entirely by donations. If you believe in the importance spay/neuter efforts and the positive impact it can have in our community, please consider making a donation to SNAP today. Gifts can be made online at [www.maricopa.gov/pets/donate.aspx](http://www.maricopa.gov/pets/donate.aspx).

Donations are tax deductible if they are given for public purposes and not used for the payment of licenses or fees.

## Pups Doused in Gasoline and Abandoned



**"Diesel" Loves His New Home!**

In late November, MCACC Animal Control Officers were called to a mobile home park where someone doused a litter of puppies with gasoline and abandoned them. The four German Shepherd pups were found in a plastic bin and left outside in the rain. No one claimed them.

The dogs were brought back to MCACC where shelter staff worked late to bathe the pups and ensure that all the fuel was removed. In no time the puppies soon began to play and act like nothing had happened. Once news spread about the dogs, calls came rushing into MCACC from potential adopters.

On the day that the dogs went up for adoption, close to 100 people came to adopt them. All four are now in loving homes!

## Happy Tail



"Lady Bug"

*Lady Bug is a Scottish terrier/Lhasa Apso mix (our best guess). We brought her home when she was just eight weeks old.*

*Lady Bug is a bundle of energy and in her eyes, everything is new. She doesn't walk - she bounces on springs.*

*Lady Bug loves being outside. One of her favorite places to relax is under our apple tree. She helped a few fall down before they were ready to pick.*

*She is a great watch dog and has amazing hearing.*

*Lady Bug is the smallest*

*dog we have ever adopted. We love her very much.*

*— The Webb family*

## Happy Tail



"Stella"

*We adopted Chelsea on Saturday, September 14, 2013. She had been at the shelter since May 1st. We have changed her name to Stella and it only took about an hour for her to figure it out! We've discovered that Stella LOVES to go hiking.*

*The day we brought her home, she hung out with our other dog all afternoon and then they crashed together (see photo). I hoped they would be fine with each other and they are more than fine!*

*Stella is a very sweet girl and has made herself at home quickly. She has attached herself to my 12-year-old son and it's such a great thing for both of them. She has been wonderful and we are so thankful you kept her as long as you did.*

*Thanks again!  
Jane V.*

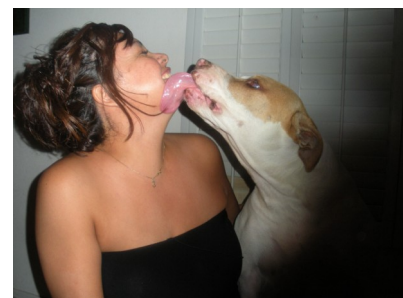


## Send Us Your Happy Tail!

Did you adopt a dog or cat from MCACC? We'd love to hear how they are doing. Send your stories and a photo to:

Public Information Office  
MCACC  
2500 S. 27th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Or email: [gablem@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:gablem@mail.maricopa.gov)



# Wag & Walk Adoption Hike Program!



MCACC and Maricopa County Parks & Recreation departments have partnered to present the innovative Wag & Walk Adoption Hike program at Utery Mountain Regional

Park in Mesa. The program is designed to provide hikers the opportunity to meet potential canine hiking companions, while enjoying one of the county's most beautiful parks.

The one-mile trek takes human and canine participants on a barrier free path along Utery Mountain's Merkle Trail. The hikes are scheduled for the first Saturday of every month through April.

During the first hike in November, two of the canine hiking companions from MCACC were adopted. Patrick is pictured here with one of his new family members.



## Valentine's Safety Tips for your Pets!

You can express your love for your furry companions by ensuring they are safe and healthy this Valentine's Day.

Most of us know that chocolate is dangerous to dogs, but did you know that baking chocolate is especially toxic?

Beware! Sugar-free candies and gum contain large amounts of xylitol, a sweetener that is toxic to pets (especially dogs)?

Roses and Valentine's Day go hand in hand, but even a small nibble on a rose petal can cause upset stomach and vomiting in your dog or cat? In fact, these

flowers can be fatally poisonous to cats!

Keep your pets safe this Valentine's Day. Give your dog or cat some extra attention, TLC and perhaps a new toy!



## February Event Honors Animal Heroes

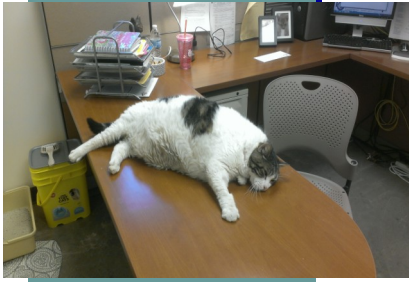
Heroic animals throughout Arizona will be honored on February 8, 2014 at the 11th Annual Hero Awards. The event, which is hosted by Friends of Animal Care & Control, will be held at the Montelucia Resort & Spa in Scottsdale.

The fundraising gala pays special recognition to animals that have shown courage and strength in a time of crisis, provide a service to the community, have saved the life of a human or another animal or who has been a loyal companion during a difficult time of someone's life.

Money raised at the event supports MCACC's Spay Neuter Assistance Program. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.azfriendsofanimals.org/hero](http://www.azfriendsofanimals.org/hero).



## Albert the 28lb Cat Finds Forever Home!



"Albert"

*"A house is not a home without a pet."*

— Unknown

He was brought to MCACC's East Valley Animal Care Center as a stray on August 3, 2013.

He arrived already neutered and declawed. But what made this cat stand out was his size — a whopping 28 pounds!

The oversized feline was quickly nicknamed Albert by shelter staff. There wasn't a cat kennel large enough to accommodate him, so Albert was moved to one of MCACC's administrative offices at their 27th Avenue location.

Albert became a media sensation. Within hours of hearing his story, all of the Valley television stations had featured him on their broadcasts. He was mentioned in USA

Today and producers from Good Morning America expressed interest in his story.

Shortly after his story was shared, shelter staff received an email from someone in Flagstaff who wanted to adopt Albert.

The potential adopter had experience with special needs cats and understood the commitment involved with adopting Albert. His weight loss needed to be slow and medically supervised. He also required a special prescribed weight loss diet.

Within days of arriving at MCACC, Albert had a new home!

His new adoptive mom, Mary, stays in touch with shelter staff and provides

regular updates. Albert has lost some weight and is fitting in famously at his



new home. He is best friends with his new human brother.

He was recently selected to be honored at the Friends of Animal Care & Control's 11th Annual Hero Awards in February.



"Albert" at Home

## Waived Adoption Fees for Adult Cats

Many animal shelters dislike the idea of "giving away" adult cats because they fear the animals will go to homes where they are not valued.

However, research conducted by the ASPCA has found that an adopter's attachment to their cat did not decrease when the adoption fee was eliminated. And more importantly, free adoption programs for adult cats can

change the lives of thousands of cats who may otherwise be euthanized due to lack of shelter space.

MCACC is currently waiving adoption fees on all cats over six months of age.



"Finnegan"

# Pete & Mac's Pet Resort Hosts Pajama Party



Pete & Mac's Pet Resort recently hosted a pet pajama party at their location in Gilbert. Dogs and owners arrived in their most comfy

pajamas and enjoyed an evening of food, photos and fun!

MCACC's mobile adoption bus was there and two of the dogs were adopted! Money raised during the event was donated to MCACC for the animals in our care.

The most challenging component of the event? Getting dogs to stay on the bed for their photos! We discovered that the "pupcakes" were popular with the dogs and they came in handy during photo

time. Thanks to MCACC volunteer Sue for serving as event photographer and capturing the moment!



## PetSmart Charities Staff Volunteer at MCACC

On a cold morning in early December, a group of employees from PetSmart Charities visited our East Valley Animal Care Center to volunteer and help the homeless animals.

The group didn't let the chilly weather prevent them from walking dogs, cleaning kennels and even washing a couple of

the Animal Control field vehicles.

Does your employer host staff volunteer projects? If so, consider a volunteer day with MCACC. If you are interested in a group volunteer project, please email our Volunteer Coordinator at [WoodLaFaveD@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:WoodLaFaveD@mail.maricopa.gov).



## Free Event to Help Friends of Animal Care & Control

Join us on Thursday, May 1st at Starfire Golf Club at Scottsdale Country Club for the 27th Anniversary of PALS (Pets & Animal Lovers Service).

The event benefits three Valley animal rescue groups including Friends of Animal Care & Control, Brambley Hedge Rabbit Rescue and Medical Animals In

Need will also be beneficiaries of the event.

The celebration runs from 6pm to 9pm and is FREE to attend. Guests are encouraged to bid on one (or more) unique silent auction items—with 100% of the proceeds going to all three event beneficiaries.

The first 100 attendees will receive a free meal, cocktail and goodie bag!

For more information and to RSVP please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/vents/1510972579128976/>

For more information on PALS, please visit [www.ourpals.com](http://www.ourpals.com).





One of the adoptable pups gets some love at the SNIFF event. Photo courtesy of Photography by MF.

## Stylish Fundraiser Helps Pets!

On December 20, 2013, Board members from the Power of One Good Deed (POGD) donated \$30,000 to Friends of Animal Care & Control. The funds were raised through POGD's flagship event, SNIFF2013, which was held in November. Proceeds will be used to support MCACC's Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP).



## Resolve to License Your Pet in 2014

*Of the 41,347 dogs and cats brought to MCACC in FY2013, fewer than 10% were reunited with their owners.*

Every year, thousands of stray dogs are brought to MCACC. Unfortunately only a small percentage (approximately 10%) of those animals are reunited with their owner.

Why? Because a majority of the dogs brought to our shelter are not wearing ID, or the identification they have is outdated.

In Maricopa County the law requires that all dogs three months of age or older have a license and rabies vaccination. The cost to license your dog is minimal: \$17 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$42 for dogs that have not been altered.

If your licensed dog is picked up by one of our

Animal Control Officers, we will make every attempt to bring your dog home to you immediately—and save you (and your dog) a trip to the shelter.

If your dog does arrive at MCACC and has a current license, his first 24 hours

at the shelter will be at no charge. Additionally, licensed dogs receive longer care periods while our staff exhaust every option to contact you.

If a licensed dog bites someone, he may be eligible for home quarantine instead of being quarantined in our facility or a veterinary hospital.

You may be able to license your dog or get replacement tags through our website at [www.maricopa.gov/pets](http://www.maricopa.gov/pets).



Newly adopted Mojo proudly wears his MCACC tag

# New Hope Spotlight: Ruby Ranch Rescue

Ruby Ranch Rescue and Pet Sanctuary was born out of one of founder Pam Heine's experiences at MCACC. Pam was delivering blankets to the East Valley Animal Care Center and came across a tiny white dog huddled in the corner. The sign on the dog's kennel said "Stray" and Pam made this pup her mission. When the dog's stray hold was up, Pam adopted her and began doing some investigative work. She discovered that the dog's owner had passed away and that the little dog was 18 years old!

The tiny white Maltese mix became known as Ruby and lived with Pam another ten months before her heart gave out just shy of her 19th birth-

day. Pam decided to create a rescue that would honor Ruby by taking in the shy, sick, senior pets that are often overlooked at the shelter.



MCACC alum, "Cuddles"

Today Ruby Ranch continues to expand and take more animals from MCACC. There's Grandma Gertrude, a blind Shih

Tzu; Elmo, a one-eyed Lhasa Apso mix; Sugar, a senior Maltese with one eye and three teeth; and many more!

The dogs at Ruby Ranch are often featured for adoption at the Pet Club in Phoenix and through The Pet Knot—a collaboration with several other rescue groups who showcase their adoptable animals at Trendy Pet in Scottsdale Fashion Square Mall.

For every sick, injured and senior dog that Pam takes from MCACC, a kennel space opens for another dog entering the system. We are truly grateful for Pam and our other New Hope partners! Please visit: [www.rubyranchrescue.org](http://www.rubyranchrescue.org) [www.thepetknot.com](http://www.thepetknot.com)

*Our New Hope Rescue Partners are one of the reasons our euthanasia rates have decreased. In appreciation, each quarter we will showcase one of these amazing groups!*

# Maricopa County Home Show to Help MCACC



Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) has been selected as the Maricopa County Home & Garden Show benefactor for their March event. The spring Home & Garden Show will take place on March 7-9 at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale.

The Home & Garden Show features thousands of home improvement and landscaping ideas, sales and giveaways!

The MC Home Show is making it easy for YOU to attend. Anyone who donates at least two cans of new/unused dog, cat, puppy or kitten food will be given one FREE admission ticket into the show. In order to receive your free admission ticket, you must bring your donation of at least two cans of pet food to Gate 2.

We'll be attending all three days of the event with plenty of cute, adoptable animals! For more information please visit [www.mchomeshows.com](http://www.mchomeshows.com).



**Maricopa County Animal  
Care & Control**

**Visit One of Our Four Locations!**

**West Valley Animal Care Center**

(Adoptions, Lost & Found, Licensing)  
2500 S. 27th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85009

**East Valley Animal Care Center**

(Adoptions, Lost & Found, Licensing)  
2630 W. Rio Salado Parkway  
Mesa, AZ 85201

**PetSmart Everyday Adoption Center**

Old Town Scottsdale  
(Adoptions Only)  
4380 N. Miller Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**Under One Woof Adoption Center**

Metro Center Mall  
(Adoptions Only)  
9617 N. Metro Parkway, #1116  
Phoenix, AZ 85051

**(602) 506-PETS (7387)**

**[www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov)**



"Otter"

## Friends of Animal Care & Control



Friends of Animal Care & Control (FRIENDS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. As a "friends of" group, FRIENDS goal is to raise money to support MCACC.

FRIENDS provides a valuable service by supporting MCACC's non-mandated programs. The largest (and we believe most important) of these programs is the SNAP (Spay/Neuter Assistance Program).

SNAP provides no-cost spay and neuter services to low-income residents of Maricopa County.

Without FRIENDS financial support, SNAP would not be as successful. And without your support, we would be unable to make a difference in the lives of animals in our community. If you'd like to make a financial contribution to FRIENDS please visit our website at [www.azfriendsofanimals.org](http://www.azfriendsofanimals.org).

You can also support FRIENDS and MCACC by shopping at the FRIENDS Thrift Shop. Proceeds from the shop's sales help fund the SNAP.

**FRIENDS Thrift Shop**  
**12625 N. Cave Creek Road**  
**(just north of Thunderbird)**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85022**  
**(602) 923-6914**

Store Hours:  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday and  
Saturday: 10am—4pm  
Tuesday and Thursday: 10am—  
6pm

FRIENDS Thrift Shop also accepts donations of gently used clothing, accessories, furniture and home goods.